

ORIGINAL

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
DALLAS DIVISION

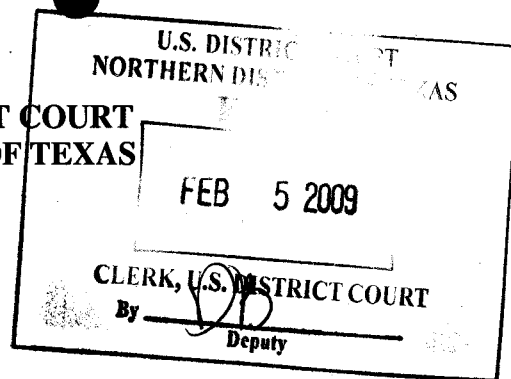
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE  
COMMISSION,

Plaintiff

v.

MARK CUBAN,

Defendant



Civil Action No. 3:08-cv-02050 (SAF)

**BRIEF OF AMICI CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF  
DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS**

Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 creates fraud liability for conduct involving a "deceptive device or contrivance" used "in connection with" the purchase or sale of securities. In *U.S. v. O'Hagan*, 521 U.S. 642 (1997), the U.S. Supreme Court found that Section 10(b) permits liability for insider trading based on the misappropriation theory. Under that theory, "a fiduciary's undisclosed, self-serving use of a principal's information to purchase or sell securities, in breach of a duty of loyalty and confidentiality, defrauds the principal of the exclusive use of that information." *Id.* at 652. The Court emphasized, consistent with its earlier insider trading rulings, that *only* if the defendant has breached a fiduciary or similar relationship of trust and confidence can the defendant be found to have engaged in the requisite deception through nondisclosure. *Id.*

In the context of a business relationship, a confidentiality agreement alone is insufficient to create a fiduciary or similar relationship of trust and confidence between the parties. Under both state and federal common law, a confidentiality agreement alone creates only an obligation

to maintain the secrecy of the information, not a fiduciary or fiduciary-like duty to act loyally to the source of the information. In the absence of any other facts or circumstances indicating the existence of a fiduciary or similar relationship of trust and confidence, there can be no insider trading liability based on the misappropriation theory pursuant to Section 10(b).

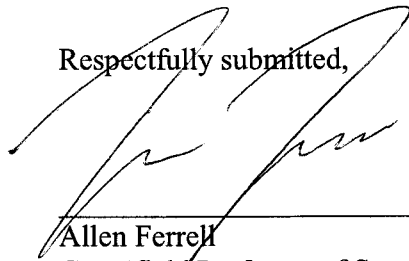
After the *O'Hagan* decision, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) promulgated Rule 10b5-2. 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b5-2 (2002). The adopting release states that the rule was designed to address when "a breach of a family or other non-business relationship may give rise to liability under the misappropriation theory of insider trading." *Selective Disclosure and Insider Trading*, 65 FR 51716 (Aug. 24, 2000). Federal courts likewise have found that Rule 10b5-2 does not apply in the context of business relationships. *See, e.g., SEC v. Talbot*, 430 F. Supp. 2d 1029, 1061 n.91 (C.D. Cal. 2006).

Rule 10b5-2 purports to provide a non-exclusive list of three situations in which a person is deemed to have a "duty of trust or confidence" for purposes of applying the theory. 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b5-2 (2002) (preliminary note). The first situation in which a person is deemed to have a "duty of trust or confidence" is "[w]henever a person agrees to maintain information in confidence." *Id.* § 240.10b5-2(b)(1).

Assuming that Rule 10b5-2(b)(1) is even applicable to business relationships, a confidentiality agreement alone would be insufficient to establish the existence of a fiduciary or similar relationship of trust and confidence. The SEC's use of the phrase "trust *or* confidence" in Rule 10b5-2(b)(1), as opposed to the *O'Hagan* standard of "trust *and* confidence," suggests that the SEC sought to go beyond the *O'Hagan* articulation of the misappropriation theory. If Rule 10b5-2(b)(1) creates potential liability based *solely* on the existence of a confidentiality agreement, the rule is an invalid exercise of the agency's rulemaking authority. Interpreted in

this manner, Rule 10b5-2(b)(1) directly contradicts the Supreme Court's rulings on the scope of Section 10(b) liability for insider trading because it would create liability without the existence of a fiduciary or similar relationship of trust and confidence. The SEC does not have the authority to adopt rules that impermissibly expand the scope of Section 10(b) liability. *Santa Fe Industries, Inc. v. Green*, 430 U.S. 462 (1977); *Ernst & Ernst v. Hochfelder*, 425 U.S. 185 (1976).

Respectfully submitted,



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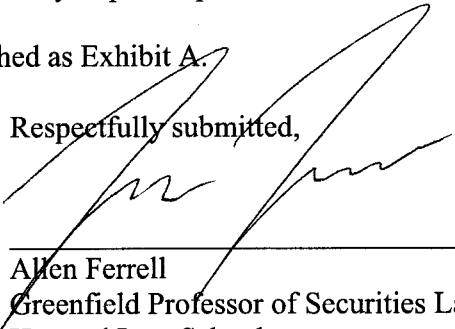
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The full curricula vitae of the *amici curiae* are attached as Exhibit B to this motion.<sup>1</sup>

The *amici curiae* are interested in the predictable interpretation of the securities laws in accordance with the statutory text and purpose. The case against Mark Cuban presents an important interpretive issue concerning the application of insider trading law. For the reasons set forth in the attached *amici curiae* submission, the *amici curiae* support the dismissal of the complaint against Mark Cuban.

Accordingly, the *amici curiae* respectfully request – pursuant to Local Rule 7.2 – that this Court grant them leave to file the brief attached as Exhibit A.

Respectfully submitted,



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*On Behalf of the Amici Curiae*

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<sup>1</sup> The *amici curiae* did not receive any form of compensation with respect to their *amici curiae* submission and the views expressed in the brief are their own. Counsel for Mark Cuban provided the *amici curiae* with assistance in the preparation of the submission.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that a copy of the foregoing Brief of Amici Curiae in Support of Defendant's Motion to Dismiss was served on the counsel of record listed below, by first class U.S. mail, on February 5, 2009.

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/s/Allen Ferrell/kzm

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